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CUBA.

*Sanitary report from Habana.*HABANA, CUBA, *January 13, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the sanitary condition of the city of Habana, with the mortality for the week ended Thursday, January 12, 1899:

Street cleaning is a matter now of daily occurrence, and if followed up will be of great sanitary benefit in the near future. While it is possible to remove daily the droppings of animals and other wastes daily accumulated, it is almost impossible to make the paved streets mechanically clean when the mud and filth are carried to them from the unpaved streets.

Again, each rain washes the mud from the higher to the lower streets, making them filthy, the sidewalks being covered with slippery filth. The Prado, Zulueta, and other streets which have been paved with a rotten limestone, or what is called cheat, and which fouls badly after rains and is easily washed away, must be repaved, preferably with asphalt, before that part of the city between them and the bay can be swept clean. The paving of the streets named can be done this winter with but little danger to the health of the residents on said streets, provided the work is begun immediately and finished before June 1. This statement is based on the fact that there is but little grading to be done on these streets to prepare them for the pavements and also because there has been no fouling of the street, the rains invariably sweeping away the rotten limestone with the accumulated waste matter. The paved streets, certainly those in the oldest part of the city, should not be touched this winter, it being now too late to begin work on them without disastrous results.

The wharves at Regla, about which much has been said in several of my reports, have at last been made mechanically clean. Unquestionably these wharves should be thoroughly washed and scrubbed with a strong solution of the mercuric bichloride, as the excreta of thousands of soldiers have been deposited on these wharves daily since last August, and hundreds of cases of enteric fever, dysentery, and diarrhea occurred among them. But 1 death from yellow fever has come to my notice during the week—an American and an employee of the Customs Service died on January 4. I learn that there are 2 additional cases of smallpox in the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana regiment. There are but a few cases of the disease, and I know of but 2 cases now existing in the city.

There is a growing trade between ports in Florida and Habana, and the vessels employed in said trade, small schooners, invariably go to the Caballeria Wharf, where they discharge their cargoes and remain several days.

The crews of vessels from Key West are, in all probability, immune to yellow fever, but the vessels themselves may become infected without its appearance in the crew, which condition of affairs would be more dangerous than if the disease actually appeared aboard.

Passenger traffic to the United States is increasing rapidly. Some of the vessels carrying passengers to ports in Florida occasionally go to San José Wharf. It is not a common practice, but when these vessels bring considerable army material, they land it at this wharf. This should be stopped.

Very respectfully,

W. F. BRUNNER,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

Mortality of the city of Habana for the week ended Thursday, January 12, 1899.

Cause of death.	Total.
Yellow fever.....	1
Enteric fever.....	14
Pernicious fever.....	4
Malarial fever.....	46
Dysentery.....	9
Enteritis.....	44
Pneumonia.....	10
Tuberculosis.....	43
Deaths from all causes.....	285
Annual ratio per 1,000.....	74.10

*Sanitary reports from Santiago.*SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *December 17, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that 60 deaths have been recorded for the week ended Saturday the 17th. Of these, 27 were from paludian fevers, pernicious, and remittent; 16 from enterocolitis, 5 from tuberculosis, 2 from typhomalaria, the rest from common diseases of non-contagious character. The smallpox epidemic reigning at Gibara and Holguin, on the northern coast of the island, is declining rapidly and the death rate is now about 1 per diem. The existing cases have been isolated and a large staff of physicians have been employed to combat this fearful disease. I have taken unusual precautions with vessels coming from Gibara, forbidding all communication with shore and disinfecting the ships and carefully inspecting the crews, vaccinating those who had never been, and those who had not for a long time been vaccinated. So far no case of true smallpox has appeared at Santiago.

Respectfully,

H. S. CAMINERO,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *December 24, 1898.*

SIR: The sanitary condition of Santiago is slowly improving; 58 deaths have been reported for the week ended this Saturday, December 24. Of these, 2 were from dysentery, 3 from typhomalaria, 20 from paludism, 12 from diarrhea, from pneumonia, 2, from bronchitis, 3, from tuberculosis, 4, the rest from common affections of noncontagious character.

The appearance of what we call the winter season, has as usual developed many affections of the respiratory organs. Bronchitis, anginas, and a mild form of grippe prevail to a large extent; this last disease always attacks a great number of people, but it is mild in character and very seldom causes death, unless pneumonia sets in. Yellow fever has disappeared completely, as no deaths have been reported from it for some time. Measles among the infantile population has become quite frequent.

Respectfully,

H. S. CAMINERO,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.